

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association June 1999, Vol. 66, No. 6

In This Issue

President's Message

John, WA1IGL - SK

[Page 2](#)

Field Day - 1999

Field Day Map

[Page 3](#)

QSL Card

Framingham Circuit .PDF

and more...

President's Message

The Field Day preparations are making headway as we enter June. Two of the tower bases have been bolted to prevent further splitting. Four RG-8 jumper cables have been constructed to replace marginal ones. We have a plan, but there's still a lot of work that needs to be done, so we will be spending every Wednesday night at the shack preparing for Field Day. Helpers are always welcome.

June also brings two opportunities to give some volunteer time to Framingham, the Flag Day Road Race and the Flag Day Parade. The town needs and appreciates our efforts, and we have the opportunity to show the town how much we appreciate our space in the Danforth. Bev, N1LDO is coordinating the parade volunteers, and Jim, W1EQW is in charge of the road race effort.

The shack antennas are almost done. We're waiting on one part from Cushcraft for the beam. The vertical is ready to be remounted and tuned. Bob, W1RH, and I are planning activities for next year. If you have any requests for speakers, please email one of us.

73,

Peter, KA1AXY

John, WA1IGL - SK

by Marc, WA1R

Thursday, Jun 10 This Month's Meeting

Food, fun and radio really come together on Field Day. At this month's meeting, get a taste of what's on the plate for this year's Field Day weekend.

Club elections will be held too!

Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by phone, by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the *Wednesday* one week before the monthly meeting.

by phone

Home:

(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)

College:

(508) 910-5296

by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA
1 Cold Spring Brook Road
Hopkinton, MA 01748

by internet

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If there ever was an "Elmer's Elmer," it was John MacLeod, WA1IGL. In the 1960s and 70s, Mac was responsible for bringing more new hams into the hobby than anyone I can remember in this area.

I first met him 20 years ago when I was studying for my Novice ticket. The ARRL referred me to a "certified instructor" and the friendly voice – when I finally made the call – at the other end of the line was none other than WA1 (Independent Girl Lover).

Mac was involved in a project with the phone company at the time, but, he still took the time to introduce me to another local ham – a guy with the call K1AZE and another radio hobbyist, Jim Boates, WA1IGL. The rest, as they say, is history. I set up an appointment with Jim for my Novice test and, after lots of sweating, I did pass (on the first time, too).

Mac never left the picture, though, because like all new hams, he considered us his "kids." He took the time to help us with just about any question we had, no matter how silly or dumb it may have seemed. To Mac, no question was unimportant.

He was just that committed to the hobby and the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn.

A past president – in the 1960s – Mac led the club through some lean times. Still, he never lost his enthusiasm. Whenever there was an event that needed coverage, Mac was there with his trusty handheld and mobile station. (He told a story of carrying an ancient two-meter HT that was so heavy that well it ... needless to say there was a lot of belt-cinching that day to keep the trousers in place).

He was an active participant in many Field Days, going to the point of securing the Dog Pound on Badger Road during the early 1980s for Field Day. He also drove a riding mower to make sure it was mowed.

Field Days setup dawned with Mac's truck hauling tower sections and what have you to the site. That truck was a familiar one at FARA events as it not only

Continued from previous page

hauled tower sections, but also served as Net Control station for many public service events, as well as one of the trucks that was used to haul tables to the Flea Market when we had to go elsewhere to get them.

Such was his dedication to the club that when it came time to buy a new vehicle about 15 years ago, he made sure it would be a pickup that would be available to FARA.

One of Mac's passions was Public Service operations. He was my predecessor as Radio Officer for the Town of Framingham's Civil Defense Department and helped to draw up the original radio plan for the town in the early 1970s. He was later active with the town's emergency preparedness council and took the Radiological Officer training course. He was one of the few certified Radiological Monitoring officers in the state. He also actively participated in Red Cross-sponsored training.

And, he was one of the first Amateurs to work on the annual Walk America Walkathon for the March of Dimes. That was when it was 20-miler in 1980.

That Mac was dedicated to FARA was easy to see. Not only did he open his house to newcomers, but, he also held classes for established operators. He also opened his house in the early 1980s to host the FARA picnic.

Mac's interests in Amateur Radio were widely varied. Not only did he support FARA in any way he could, including becoming one of the first Volunteer Examiners for the club in the mid-1980s (we actually held the first VE test in his basement), but, he also supported other community-based organizations, including the Masons, York and Scottish Rites of Masonry.

In addition to all this, Mac headed up a six-meter net, a 15-meter net and a CW net during the 1980s. Indeed he was active.

Mac took an early cut from the phone company about 11 years ago, but, he never lost his interest and love of Amateur Radio. Until he moved to Florida, he was active with either FARA or the Shrine's Radio Club.

I could go on, but, I think you can see that the Amateur Radio world lost a one of the great ones with Mac's passing. He will be missed by all who knew him.

I can only think that given his penchant for CW that instead of becoming the traditional Silent Key, he will still be sending loud and clear somewhere else. It's just that hell be talking with his friend WA1UEH (SK) or maybe Pinky Pinkham, who knows.

FARA Field Day - 1999

Information

By Peter, KA1AXY

Field Day, June 26 to 27, this year will be at Gerard's Turkey Farm on Water Street in Nobscot. Take Union Ave north from the shack, cross Rt 9, and continue north to the Nobscot traffic lights on Edgell Rd. Turn right on Edmonds Rd and bear right at the fork, onto Water Street. Look for the turkey farm and antennas on the left. Alternatively, you can take 126 North from the shack, cross Rt. 9, turning left at the Saxonyville lights, then quickly right onto Water Street. In this case, you would look for the antennas and turkey farm on your right.

Work will start after lunch on Friday. Helpers are welcome (and needed). If you want to help, someone will be on 147.15 or at the shack to tell you what's needed.

Plenty of food will be available all weekend, thanks to our Executive Chef, K1KTK, Refreshments Manager, K1NG, and their helpers. We request a nominal contribution to defer expenses.

Plans call for two HF towers, a VHF/UHF facility and a Novice station. Of course, all this has to be set up Saturday morning, and taken down Sunday afternoon. Your help is needed to make this a fun and successful FARA Field Day.

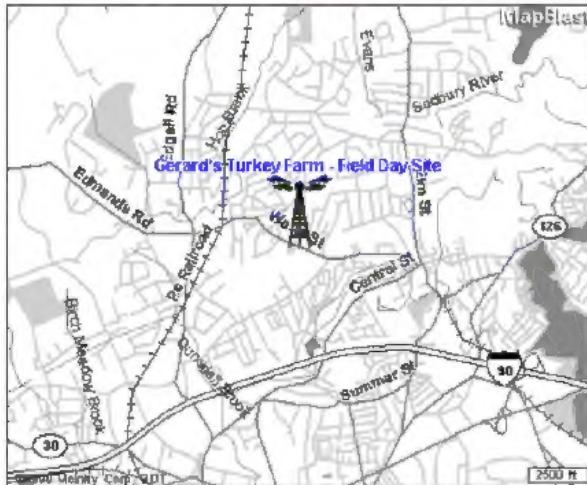
Wear your good work clothes. It is rumored that videos will be made.



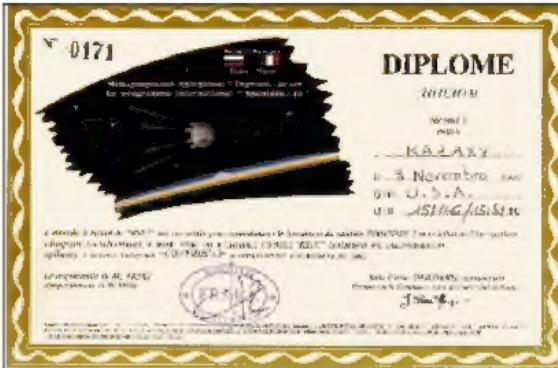
Field Day Planning Meetings

Field Day Planning meetings will take place every Wednesday night at the club shack right up to Field Day.

Martin, AA1ON works six meters while Jim, N1XAS looks on at Field Day '98



QSL Card
Submitted by Peter, KA1AXY



40th Anniversary of Sputnik

This isn't really a 2 way contact. The technical school on Reunion Island and the Russian Space Agency collaborated to orbit a replica of the original Sputnik. I figured out the times it was going to be overhead and heard it on my FT-50 while on an overnight with Mike's Boy Scout troop in Plymouth. It was neat, because the Scouts all got to hear it, too.

June Meeting moved to June 10th

The June Meeting, at which elections for officers for the 1999-2000 year will be held, will be held on June 10th (the second Thursday in June). This is so that we can support the Framingham Flag Day road race on June 3rd.

Framingham Circuit .PDF
By Robert, N1UVA

The Framingham Circuit is now available as a PDF file that can be viewed in Adobe Acrobat. It will be sent out as an attachment to the monthly "Circuit is Online" notification to all members that are in good dues standing and have specified that they read the Circuit online. You should receive it Friday before

the scheduled monthly meeting. The Circuit will still be uploaded to the web site.

When printed and viewed the newsletter will look identical to the printed version of the Circuit. Peter, KA1AXY is doing the conversion.

If there are any problems please let us know. If you don't have the Adobe Acrobat Reader you can download it from [\(link\)](#).

If you have not specified that you read the Circuit online and now would like to read the Acrobat version, send an email to fara@fara.org

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)
Regular FARA \$10
Student / Retired \$5
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label, please email fara@fara.org. Or, you can call Bev Lees at 508-626-2012

The Circuit is in need of QSL cards!!!
If you would like to share your favorite QSL card, which could be your own, with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.

Don't let not having a scanner keep you from sending in your favorite card. Many FARA Members have access to scanners, including Bob, W1RH.

FARA Horizons

June 2: Field Day Planning
June 3: Flag Day Road Race
June 6: Flag Day Parade
June 9: Field Day Planning
June 10: Monthly Meeting
June 16: Field Day Planning
June 21: Board Meeting
June 23: Field Day Planning
June 26-27: Field Day

FraminghamARA-L@qth.net

The FARA email reflector is working well. It provides us with an easy way to reach all our members who have email. You have to sign up for it to reach you, though. See the instructions on the FARA web page, and remember that, once you sign up, anything you send must come from the address you signed up with. If you change email addresses, you won't be able to post until you repeat the signup process from your new address.

**READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE...
SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE**
email fara@fara.org and we'll set you up!